

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 01214 160819Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 AGR-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08  
/097 W

-----104837 160821Z /10

P R 160730Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1168

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DEPT FOR ORM  
AID FOR OFDA  
USMISSION GENEVA PLEASE PASS TO MOHAMMAD BENAMAR-CHIEF,  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, UNHCR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, EP  
SUBJ: FEEDING OF ETHIOPIAN URBAN REFUGEES

1. RATHER COINCIDENTALLY WE WERE INFORMED THAT UNHCR AND THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES  
AND DISPLACED PERSONS HAD AGREED TO FEED 450 OF THE ESTIMATED  
800 URBAN REFUGEES IN THE CITY OF DJIBOUTI. WE WERE TOLD BY  
ACTING UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE COUZZMAN THAT IT WAS THE  
INTENTION OF THE UNHCR TO USE PL480 COMMODITIES FOR THIS  
PROGRAM. APPARENTLY A BUDGET HAS BEEN APPROVED BY UNHCR  
GENEVA FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES AND FOR  
THE LEASING OF A LOCAL RESTAURANT. WE WERE ALSO INFORMED  
THAT A QUOTE REFUGEE COMMITTEE END QUOTE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED  
THAT WOULD SELECT 450 REFUGEES FROM THE POSSIBLE 800  
(OR MORE) AND THAT THESE REFUGEES WOULD BE FED.

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2. WE ARE, OF COURSE, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF THIS PROGRAM. THIS CONCERN EXTENDS BEYOND THE USE OF  
USG COMMODITIES, TO THE POTENTIAL SERIOUS THREAT TO THE  
WHOLE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN DJIBOUTI. ALTHOUGH THE U.S.  
EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF FEEDING PEOPLE WHO  
ARE HUNGRY, AND WHO ARE IN DJIBOUTI AS THE RESULT OF THE  
OGADAN WAR, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RATIONALIZE THE

ATTEMPT TO FEED ONLY 3/5TH OF THE POTENTIAL STUDENT URBAN REFUGEES. WE FIND IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE WHAT EXPLANATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ESTIMATED 10,000 TO 15,000 OTHER REFUGEES IN THE CITY OF DJIBOUTI WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING FOOD FROM UNHCR OR OTHERS. WE FURTHER QUESTION THE ADVISABILITY OF ATTEMPTING TO SELECT REFUGEES ON THE BASIS OF A COMMITTEE WHO ARE GIVEN NO STANDARDS OF SELECTION AND WHOSE DECISION AS TO WHO NEEDS FOOD CAN HARDLY BE BASED ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN FRIENDSHIP OR EMOTION.

3. ONE CAN IMAGINE THE STORM OF DISSATISFACTION THAT COULD EXTEND OVER THE DJIBOUTIAN COMMUNITY WHO THEMSELVES ARE UNDERFED AND OFTEN RESENT THE REFUGEES. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR UNREST OR WORSE ARE CERTAINLY PRESENT. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS AN EXCELLENT POSSIBILITY THAT NEITHER THE PRIME MINISTER OR THE PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THIS MAJOR POLICY CHANGE. (FEEDING REFUGEES IN THE URBAN CENTERS).

4. FOR THESE REASONS WE ASK THAT UNHCR GENEVA DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH INCOMING ACTING REPRESENTATIVE SCHWAB, AND THAT THIS PROGRAM NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL MOST OF THE POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONFLICT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION TO SELECT A VERY SMALL GROUP OF REFUGEES (AND NOT EVEN A COMPLETE GROUP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THAT) EXCLUDING THE LARGER PROBLEM OF URBAN REFUGEES OF ANY ILK, IS A PRECEDENT THAT SHOULD BE VERY CAREFULLY EVALUATED. WE ARE QUITE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A DECISION IF IN FACT THOSE MORE EXPERIENCED IN THIS TYPE OF ISSUE CAN AGREE ON A SOLUTION. PLEASE ADVISE VIA US EMBASSY CHANNEL UNHCR AND US MISSION REACTION.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.  
CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, FOOD ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DJIBOU01214  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780334-1280  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DJIBOUTI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780860/aaaabydh.tel  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 38fdf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1729726  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FEEDING OF ETHIOPIAN URBAN REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** SREF, DJ  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/38fdf662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014